

been brought to light and corrected. The Board's reports have given me great help and enabled me to prevent hardships and wrongs. The former efficient secretary, Captain Denson, broke himself down serving humanity; and his daughter who succeeded him is just as faithful to the cause of right, and deserves many thanks for her noble work.

Whatever help the Board asks, give it if you can, for it will do good.

#### REFORMATORY AND REFORM.

Youthful criminals should not be confined with old and vicious offenders, for such association hardens their natures and lessens the chances of ever reclaiming them. I will, therefore, throw no obstacle in the way of establishing some kind of a reformatory or home for young offenders, provided you find it expedient and the State can now afford it.

At the last session of the General Assembly, in order to protect youthful criminals all I could, I sent a special message, and got the Legislature to pass a law allowing me to grant a conditional pardon, or rather pardon on parole. Under this authority, I have taken several young criminals out of prison and got them good homes where they are being properly trained. Under this parole, if the criminal remains of good behavior, he is free; if he violates his parole, he is returned to prison. The law has worked well, and with the help of good people in securing suitable homes, I believe I can reclaim the wayward boys without cost to the State.

Therefore, as this is a matter of grave importance and no mistake should be made, and as for the present I can by parole pardons provide homes for young criminals, would it not be wise for you to appoint or have the Governor appoint a committee of wise and humane men to take the whole matter into consideration and report to the next Legislature if a reformatory is absolutely needed, and if so, to recommend the kind most suitable for such criminals, and then with all necessary information before it, there will be slight chance of there being any mistake made.